



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Supplemental Evidence and Data Request on Healthcare System Level Strategies to Address Racial/Ethnic and Related Disparities in Health and Healthcare

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), HHS.

ACTION: Request for supplemental evidence and data submissions.

SUMMARY: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is seeking scientific information submissions from the public. Scientific information is being solicited to inform our review on *Healthcare System Level Strategies to Address Racial/Ethnic and Related Disparities in Health and Healthcare*, which is currently being conducted by the AHRQ's Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPC) Program. Access to published and unpublished pertinent scientific information will improve the quality of this review.

DATES: *Submission Deadline* on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES:

E-mail submissions: epc@ahrq.hhs.gov

Print submissions:

Mailing Address:

Center for Evidence and Practice Improvement

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

ATTN: EPC SEADs Coordinator

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jenae Benns, Telephone: 301-427-1496 or Email: epc@ahrq.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has commissioned the Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program to complete a review of the evidence for *Healthcare System Level Strategies to Address Racial/Ethnic and Related Disparities in Health and Healthcare*. AHRQ is conducting this systematic review pursuant to section 902 of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 299a.

The EPC Program is dedicated to identifying as many studies as possible that are relevant to the questions for each of its reviews. In order to do so, we are supplementing the usual manual and electronic database searches of the literature by requesting information from the public (e.g., details of studies conducted). We are looking for studies that report on Healthcare System Level Strategies to Address Racial/Ethnic and Related Disparities in Health and Healthcare, including those that describe adverse events. The entire research protocol is available online at:

<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/>

This is to notify the public that the EPC Program would find the following information on Healthcare System Level Strategies to Address Racial/Ethnic and Related Disparities in Health and Healthcare helpful:

- A list of completed studies that your organization has sponsored for this indication. In the list, please *indicate whether results are available on ClinicalTrials.gov along with the ClinicalTrials.gov trial number.*
- *For completed studies that do not have results on ClinicalTrials.gov, a summary, including the following elements: study number, study period, design, methodology, indication and diagnosis, proper use instructions, inclusion and exclusion criteria, primary and secondary outcomes, baseline characteristics, number of patients screened /eligible /enrolled /lost to follow-up /withdrawn /analyzed, effectiveness/efficacy, and safety results.*
- *A list of ongoing studies that your organization has sponsored for this indication. In the list, please provide the ClinicalTrials.gov trial number or, if the trial is not registered, the protocol for the study including a study number, the study period, design, methodology, indication and diagnosis, proper use instructions, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and primary and secondary outcomes.*
- Description of whether the above studies constitute *ALL Phase II and above clinical trials* sponsored by your organization for this indication and an index outlining the relevant information in each submitted file.

Your contribution is very beneficial to the Program. Materials submitted must be publicly available or able to be made public. Materials that are considered confidential, marketing materials, study types not included in the review, or information on indications not included in the review cannot be used by the EPC Program. This is a voluntary request for information, and all costs for complying with this request must be borne by the submitter.

The draft of this review will be posted on AHRQ's EPC Program website and available for public comment for a period of 4 weeks. If you would like to be notified when the draft is posted, please sign up for the e-mail list at: <https://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/email-updates>.

The technical brief will answer the following questions. This information is provided as background. AHRQ is not requesting that the public provide answers to these questions.

Guiding Questions

What is the current evidence for healthcare system-level strategies (including components of multifaceted strategies) designed to reduce racial, ethnic, and related socioeconomic disparities and improve health outcomes?

- a. What interventions have been studied?
- b. What racial and ethnic populations have been studied?
- c. What are the characteristics of the healthcare systems involved in studies of interventions to reduce disparities (e.g., size, location, private/public, etc.)?
- d. What common (multiple and single) chronic conditions have been studied?
- e. What primary outcomes have been studied?
- f. What are the reported effects of the strategies used in studies of interventions to reduce disparities?
- g. What are the reported unintended consequences, harms, or adverse events of the strategies used in studies of interventions to reduce disparities?
- h. Within race/ethnic groups, what other intersectional influences (e.g., disability status, income status, sexual identity and orientation, income, geographic location, language e.t.c) have been targeted in studies of interventions to reduce disparities?

- i. What study designs have been used?
- j. What information is available on the applicability and sustainability of interventions?
- k. What gaps exist in the current research?

Questions for experts/researchers/advocacy organizations/provider organizations/practicing clinicians

- a. What healthcare system-level efforts has your organization or institution employed to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health and healthcare?
 - i. Can you describe the rationale for this effort, for instance what was driving the decision of the problem and the solution/intervention? Was the intervention successful or not? What were the challenges? How are you measuring disparities and evaluating interventions and outcomes? How are these efforts funded?
- b. Do you engage community partnerships in your approach? If so, how?
 - i. Are there similar approaches you are aware of? Which other entity is trying similar approaches?
- c. Are there concepts, or conceptual frameworks, that are important in understanding the healthcare system-level interventions to reduce racial/ethnic disparities in health and healthcare?
- d. Are there elements of healthcare system-level interventions that are important and/or preferred for reducing racial/ethnic disparities in health and healthcare?
- e. How do you identify social identity groups that are not being served at all or not equally served, and how do you prioritize which groups for designing interventions? What are the challenges?
- f. How does your organization tailor the healthcare system-level approach to reach racial and ethnic groups or minorities that may be marginalized due to other factors (such as disability status, income status, sexual identity and orientation, income, geographic location, language, etc.)? Which of these factors have been most

challenging to address and why? Which factors are relatively easy to address and implement?

- g. What concerns do you have about the sustainability of healthcare system-level strategies/interventions intended to address racial and ethnic disparities in health and healthcare?
- h. Gray literature: What are prominent sources where you obtain information on healthcare system-level strategies/interventions? Who has conducted such interventions? Can you give examples of successful interventions that have been identified from these sources?
- i. What information and resources does your organization or institution need to be more effective in incorporating healthcare system-level interventions in reducing racial and ethnic disparities in health and healthcare?
- j. What are current gaps in the research and what future research is needed most?

Questions for patient advocates, families, caregivers

- a. Data clearly shows that racial and ethnic minority groups often have worse health and care. Why do you think this is the case?
- b. Have you or your loved ones experienced differences in care received, are you aware of any healthcare organizational efforts to rectify these differences? What are the efforts/programs?
- c. Have you or your loved ones participated in (or are you aware of) such program(s)? Was there any effort to consider your race and other social factors (such as your disability status, income status, sexual identity and orientation, income, geographic location, language e.t.c) in the program(s)?
- d. Are you aware of community collaboration efforts (such as social service agencies, churches e.t.c) of such programs to rectify the differences in your health and care?

Should community organizations be involved in these efforts? How? What are some barriers that community organizations face in collaborating with healthcare organizations?

- e. What types of efforts do you think a healthcare organization could do that might reduce these differences in the care received by racial and ethnic minority groups? What would be needed for them to work?
- f. Are there sources where you obtain information about these efforts?

PICOTS (Populations, Interventions, Comparators, Outcomes, and Settings)

Element	Included	Excluded
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Racial and ethnic minority groups ● Healthcare Systems providing healthcare for racial and ethnic minority groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-U.S populations
Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Healthcare system strategies that are specifically targeted to reduce racial and ethnic minority health and healthcare disparities at population-level with relevant links to healthcare system ● Strategies specifically targeted to reduce racial and ethnic minority health and healthcare disparities at health care organization-level (e.g structure of the organization) ● Strategies with community involvement with relevant links to healthcare system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exploratory sub-group analysis where the aims of the studies are not relevant to racial/ethnic health disparities ● Public health/policy-based interventions without relevant links to healthcare systems ● Interventions aimed at medical school students, pharmacy students, and other allied health students
Comparators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Standard care ● Alternative strategy/intervention 	

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health-related outcome measures (e.g., disease specific morbidity and mortality, BP control, HbA1c levels) ● Process of care measures ● Care utilization outcome measures ● Barriers to care measures ● Financial/re-imbursement measures ● Harms (e.g., unintended negative consequences) ● Stigma other related experience of discrimination 	
Timing	Any	
Settings	Any	
Study design	Randomized controlled trial, non-randomized controlled trial, nonrandomized study designs, mixed methods	Stand-alone qualitative studies, systematic reviews, narrative reviews, case reports, case series protocols, conference abstracts

Dated: December 5, 2022.

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Associate Director.

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